

**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed March 10, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-26 and 29 are now pending in this application, of which Claim 26 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The rejection of Claims 1-15, 18-25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Denovich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,254,421) in view of Boron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,248,977) is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 15 and 29 each recite, among other things, a housing defining at least one opening having at least one indent.

The Office Action states, correctly so, that Denovich et al. do not describe at least one opening having an indent.

The assertion that Boron et al. disclose "a splice connector (10) having housing (20) including at least one opening (56) having at least one indent (58)" in Figure 1 is respectfully traversed. As Boron et al. describes, the connector includes a spade housing (28) having access holes (56) and a coupling housing (34) having access holes (58). See Boron et al. col. 3, lines 41-65. Thus, the access openings (56) and (58) are separate openings in separate parts. Further, it is apparent from Figures 2 and 5 of Boron et al. that none of the openings (56) or (58) include an indent.

It is respectfully submitted that Denovich et al. or Boron et al., alone or in combination, neither describe nor suggest each limitation of independent Claims 1, 15 and 29. Claims 1, 15 and 29 are therefore submitted to be patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al.

It is likewise submitted that the limitations of Claims 2-14 and 18-25, in combination with the limitations of Claims 1 and 15, respectively, are also patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-15, 18-25 and 29 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 16-17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al., and Teytaud (U.S. Patent No. 4,219,249) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 each depend from independent Claim 15, which for the reasons set forth above is submitted to be patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al.

Teytuad adds nothing to the combination of Denovich et al. and Boron et al. with respect to Claim 15. Teytaud describes an ultrasonic welding process for the manufacture of alternator slip ring assemblies. The alternator slip ring does not include a housing defining at least one opening having at least one indent as recited in Claim 15.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al. and Teytaud collectively fail to teach each limitation of Claim 15. Claim 15 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al. and Teytaud.

The recitations of Claims 16 and 17, in combination with the recitations of Claim 15 are also submitted to be patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al. and Teytaud.

Claim 26, as amended, recites a connector stick device for connection with at least two electrical cables using a crimping device, said connector stick device comprising a plurality of connectors, each of said connectors having opposing sides, and "wherein at least one of said opposing sides of each connector is removably connected to one of said opposing sides of a

different connector by an ultrasonic weld, and further wherein said weld is breakable during the connection of the at least two electrical cables."

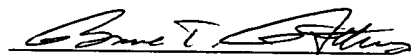
It is believed that the amendment to Claim 26 clarifies that the claim is directed toward, among other things, a property of the weld which connects different connectors. As such it is respectfully submitted that the associated language in the claim is a positive limitation in a patentable sense. Further, Applicants submit that welded connections are ordinarily intended for permanent connection of joined parts. Nothing in the cited art suggests that a breakable weld in a connector for joining two electrical cables is desirable or advantageous.

Claim 26 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Denovich et al. in view of Boron et al. and Teytaud.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 16-17 and 26 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce T. Atkins  
Registration No. 43,476  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070

**APPENDIX**

**(VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE)**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

26. (Twice Amended) A connector stick device [capable of being connected to] for connection with at least two electrical cables using a crimping device, said connector stick device comprising:

a plurality of connectors;

each of said connectors having opposing sides; and

wherein at least one of said opposing sides of each connector is removably connected to one of said opposing sides of a different connector by an ultrasonic weld, and further wherein said weld is [capable of being broken] breakable during the connection of the at least two electrical cables.